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# GERMAN RESCUE BREATHING APPARATUS

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GERMAN RESCUE BREATHING APPARATUS

11 November 1944

Reported by

Lieut.(jg) E.D.BUIE  
U.S.N.R.

CIOB Black List Item 4 27  
Instruments & Equipment

COMBINED INTELLIGENCE OBJECTIVES  
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PERSONNEL OF INSPECTION TEAM

Lieutenant (jg) E.D. BUIE, USNR, Technical Section

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ALSOS-26

ALSOS INTELLIGENCE MISSION  
UNITED STATES NAVY  
Paris, FranceGerman Rescue Breathing Apparatus.Summary.

This report covers information of field inspection of two types of German rescue breathing apparatus. This report will be of interest to the Bureau of Ships, the Experimental Diving Unit and to the Mine Disposal School, Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

These sets were recovered part in the Paris area and part in the submarine pens at Brest. There are seven sets complete with canisters and mask being shipped. Two of the larger and three of the smaller types are being forwarded to the Bureau of Ships, one large and one small type to the Mine Disposal School, Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

Description of Equipment.

The larger and more elaborate type is equipped with a wooden storage box and the apparatus is further housed in a metal container which when opened exposes the top cross section of the apparatus. The set is used however, while in the metal case and is worn with an adjustable strap harness on the operators back. A gauge registering in atmospheres is mounted on an extension hose to the operators left side. The main oxygen and by-pass valves are to his right rear. This apparatus is equipped with a loud melodious whistle which sounds when the oxygen drops below the safe figure. It requires an oxygen bottle and is equipped with a factory sealed alkali canister of one hour's duration. The operator uses the standard German mask in operation. This mask appears to be universal in its application, it being also a gas mask. For this mask to be used in the re-breather the following modifications to the mask are necessary. Unscrew the screen covering to the exhaust outlet on the inside of the mask, then cap this opening by screwing into it the blank plug used to cap the breathing tubes while inside the wooden storage case. After this remove the rubber disc valve from the inlet opening of the mask. This operation converts the mask to rebreather operation. It is interesting to note that none of the rescue breathing outfits found have been equipped with mask,



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nor are there any storage facilities for them inside the containers. No reason for this is known other than requiring the operator to use his own gas mask for this purpose thereby assuring him of the correct size. This rescue breathing apparatus is stamped with the Drager insignia.

The smaller type apparatus is less elaborate but more compact in its design. It is ruggedly built and is believed to be more adaptable for ship board use. It requires an oxygen bottle and is equipped with a factory sealed alkali canister of one hours duration. This canister is of slightly different design than the type for the larger set. This apparatus differs from most sets of this type in that in addition to the usual method of oxygen supply it is equipped with a lever which by its movement the oxygen flow can apparently be increased from one to one point seven liters per minute. It takes the standard mask and the modifications for its use are the same as described above. The manufacturer of this apparatus is believed to be Drager.

11th November 1944

E.D. BUIE  
Lieut.(jg), U.S.N.R.  
Technical Section  
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